

# HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL

---

## **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 16th January 2017 in Hunsdon Village Hall**

Present: - Cllrs B Toll, C Page, S Oliver, B Dunthorne, D Gibbs & F Maule.

In attendance: - J Robinette (Clerk), Cty Cllr R Beeching, Dist. Cllr B Brunton, B & J Carthy (PPP) & 4 members of the public.

---

At 7.00pm the PC received a brief presentation from representatives from Public Health England, who explained the relocation of this government body to Harlow in 2021, using one of the GSK sites. It is expected that the planning application will be submitted in summer 2018. The site will generate in excess of 2000 jobs for local people. Public Health England are talking to as many stakeholders as possible in the next year to promote its relocation.

### **1. Apologies for absence.**

None received.

### **2. Approval of minutes of parish council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016.**

Agreed & signed by the chairman.

### **3. Matters arising.**

None from the previous meeting.

### **4. Reports from members representing the Parish Council on outside organisations and attending meetings on behalf of the Council**

**(a) Parish Paths Partnership.** Virtually all of the footpaths which cross parish arable land have now been ploughed drilled and the new crops sprayed out to a width of approximately 1 meter, to re-establish the line of the footpaths. The proposals concerning Footpaths 6, 8 and 9 in the Broomlands area of Fillets Farm are still to be clarified and agreed. Until this happens the line of these paths are as described in the Definitive Map for Hunsdon

**(b) Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).** The CPRE have put in a robust response to the local District Plan opposing the use of Hertfordshire's green belt.

**(c) Village Hall Management Committee.** Mr. J Felstead informed the council that work continues on cottage 46 and it is hoped that it will be completely at the end of January.

**(d) Allotments.** Nothing to report.

**(e) Police Liaison.** Nothing to report. However, there is concern that the PC is receiving no monthly updates. The clerk will email Sgt. Wallace to request the crime figures.

**(f) SHN.** SHN's response to the District Plan is on EHDC's planning portal. There were over 2000 responses from SHN supporters to EHDC opposing the District Plan. Cllr Dunthorne would like to thank every person that helped with door to door leaflet drops and posting to help ensure a good response. The District Plan will go forward to planning inspectors in March and Examination in Public should be in the summer.

**(g) Dist. Council.** Nothing to report.

**(h) Cty Council.** Cty Cllr Beeching informed the council that 14000kms of roadway had been gritted over Christmas also all salt bins had been restocked. Cty Beeching had sat on many Scrutiny committees in the past months, including Crime and Disorder, Waste Partnership and Public Health Budgets. The HCC had received high praise from the Chief Social Worker for England, Isabelle Trowler who stated that the work of the County Council's multi-disciplinary child protection service project was impressive, the results of which have been less children coming into care, domestic abuse down by 67% and children's attendance at school is up by 36%

**5. Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr B Toll reiterated that the Parish Councils of Hunsdon working jointly with Eastwick and Gilston engaged Troy Navigus as specialist planning consultants to submit a response to the published District Plan. By way of summary the chairman wished to quote from the submission: "The Parish Councils wish to make clear that they do not endorse the release of land in the Gilston area from the green belt. The primacy of the green belt as a mechanism to prevent sprawl is established in national planning policy and any amendment to the boundaries through a Local Plan review should only be undertaken in 'exceptional circumstances' (NPPF para. 83). It is not considered that the exceptional circumstances have been justified against alternatives that would retain the green belt, such as focusing development beyond the green belt and improving transport links to key economic centres from these locations. Whilst this could potentially mean higher levels of development in neighbouring districts to the north and east, these are matters that should be considered through the Duty to Cooperate and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. There is no evidence that such work has been undertaken". In other words the Chairman believes there could be alternative locations for the housing demand to be accommodated. For example the District Council should have looked at areas further north in the M11 corridor in co-operation with other local authorities. Because the Gilston area is largely under single ownership it is a matter of convenience of delivery rather than sustainability and consequently overrides the integrity of our Green Belt.

The Chairman went on to quote. "Notwithstanding this objection by the Parish Councils, if the allocation is to remain in the emerging Local Plan then there is a desire to ensure that what is delivered is a high quality, sustainable development which protects the integrity and quality of life of the existing residents of the area. As part of this, the ongoing management of various proposed assets within the development is of direct relevance to the Parish Councils. In conclusion, the Parish Councils wish to reiterate their objection to the allocation of the Gilston site. However, if the allocation is to be retained then it is considered a number of amendments and additions are required in order that the Plan can be demonstrated that it has been positively prepared and is sound: The need to be more explicit that the allocation is expected to adhere to Garden City principles but to make clear that the intention is that it is delivered as a string of garden villages. The Plan fails to establish what contingency plan there might be if the proposed strategy is not effective and delivery is slow. The Plan should include a housing trajectory and the monitoring framework should state what the trigger is for action. The Plan needs to provide greater certainty that the strategic infrastructure such as the second Stort crossing and junction 7A on the M11 is deliverable and will be in place at a necessarily early stage to support development. This should be achieved through the use of more policy 'hooks'. The lack of clarity over the approach to securing contributions means that it is not clear how the strategic allocations such as Gilston will be delivered". The Chairman then went on to say that our Neighbourhood Planning Group is justifiably concerned that the District Plan does not set out the means to secure the necessary funding to provide the infrastructure to support the Gilston proposals and is therefore not deemed to be deliverable in our eyes. We also have concerns about the ability to deliver the housing at the rate required to meet the Plan and subsequently we, together with all the other parishes and towns in the East Herts, will be left exposed to speculative housing applications as the 5 year housing bank will be in deficit. In other words nothing may change from the current vacuum we endure. The Group will be meeting later this month to prepare for a seminar with the developers and East Herts scheduled for the 28th January. This will give us the opportunity to pursue our concerns. Our aim is to get the best possible outcome for our communities if the Gilston proposals are approved by the Secretary of State. It is still far from certain they will be as the plan has to undergo an Examination in Public and we have stated our case to be represented at this stage. We will need professional representation and therefore seeking the necessary funding.

## 6. Village Infrastructure.

**(a) Bus Route 410A.** There had been a significantly decrease in this bus route service. The clerk has written to HCC, however as the bus service is privatised, HCC has no influence on Trusty Bus. The clerk will write to Trusty Bus.

**(b) Lighting of Chestnut Tree.** A resident has suggested lighting the Chestnut tree in the VH car park at Christmas. The Cllrs are keen to pursue this idea and have asked the resident for further advice on the health and safety aspects and overall cost.

## 7. Planning

### i. **Decision by EHDC Development Control on earlier applications.**

- i. 19, Tanners way. 2 storey side and rear ext. & single storey rear: Granted
- ii. Garden Cottage, Church Lane: 2 storey rear ext. and conversion of garage: Refused
- iii. 34 High St. replacement windows: Granted.

### ii. **New Applications:**

- i. The Pump House: Revision to design of elevation to garden room
- ii. The Pump House: Revision to design of elevation to glazed lobby
- iii. The Cedars, Stansted Road: Single storey side & rear ext. demo of conservatory
- iv. Ladygrove, Stanstead Road: ext. to conservation & int. alterations
- v. Copt Hall, Church Lane: repairs to listed building & demo of garage.

### a. **Update on ongoing applications/ responses.**

**HSY.** The PC has been in correspondence with HCC regarding the urgency in issuing enforcement notices as a result of the PCN. The PC have asked HCC to inform it of action to be taken by end of January, so that the PC can make an informed decision on increasing the village precept to finance further counsel advice and if necessary a judicial review. The clerk will also write to Mrs J Hayes Griffins (HCC) to update her on this matter.

**Brickhouse Lane.** This PA was refused by the development control committee in January.

**Nine Ashes Development.** This PA is to go forward to development control committee, no date as yet.

**Well House Development.** This PA was passed at the development control meeting in December.

**Hunsdon aerodrome aggregate site.** The PC is pursuing the planning certificates with regard to this site as in recent months it has intensified.

**Direct Scaffolding.** Lorries have been noted starting at 6.30am. The clerk will check the conditions for the PA.

## 8. Finance

### a. Spending for approval

Clerk's salary for Jan 2017	£407.20
St Albans Diocesan ( Rent for T Courts ) retrospective (BT)	£62.50
Cash for litter pickers wages	£50.00
V Patel (shop initiative Jan- Mar) Section 137	£90.00
Hunsdon donation to Village News Section 137	£60.00
J Franklin ( grass cutting) and leaf clearing	£450.00
Portsmouth Flags	£120.00
Petty cash	£40.00

**b. Precept.** The councillors agreed a precept of £15400, for the running of the village, however the final figure may be significantly increased due to the decision to seek further counsel advice. Therefore all relevant paperwork will be signed by the chairman, vice chair and the clerk at the beginning of February once a final decision has been made by all Cllrs. and then sent to EHC.

**9. Correspondence.**

**a. E mail address change.** J Felstead will help the clerk change the PC's e mail address to a new domain.

**b. HCC traffic figures.** The PC had received the HCC's traffic accident figures for last year and they were significantly lower than in previous years.

**10. Any other business.**

**a. Congratulations to Mrs. D Gee.** The PC wish to congratulate Mrs. Gee on receiving the BEM in the New Year's honours list, for her devoted services to her community and Over Three Score Club.

**b. 20mph.** The Chairman asked Cty Cllr R Beeching for an update having 20mph signs for outside the school. Cty Beeching said it was unlikely however he suggested getting the mobile 20mph sign from High Wych on a temporary basis.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**Minutes are always available on the village web site - [www.hunsdon.org.uk](http://www.hunsdon.org.uk) .**